



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SDSU Imperial Valley Awarded \$971,371 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — October 22, 2007 — San Diego State University's Imperial Valley Campus has won funding for a new professional development project to help improve teaching in kindergarten through second grade in the core content areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts. The university was awarded a four-year grant of \$971,371 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in a statewide competition. The project, titled "Mathematics and English Language Development (MELD)," will serve over 100 K-2 teachers in seven elementary schools in the Calexico Unified School District. Intensive summer institutes blending Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) with English Language Development strategies, combined with academic year follow-up, will not only strengthen their knowledge of math content and effective teaching, but will also help them use mathematics instruction to strengthen English Language Arts. This is especially important for children who are English learners—a large proportion of the district's student population. In addition to working with teachers, the project will also provide Family Math Nights to help parents learn ways they can support their children's learning.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. In the two decades that CPEC has administered the program, more than \$93 million in grants have been awarded to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2007 grants all focus on supporting teachers in kindergarten through second grade in participating schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement as well as teacher practice.

While the professional development provided by the grants is vitally needed, the research requirement is especially important, according to CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman. He observed that "Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher practice, is critical and supports CPEC's overall commitment to accountability in educational programs."

Olivia Singh, chair of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. "The program has had a long-term impact on

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helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” noted Singh. “San Diego State University and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the Imperial Valley.”

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found on its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or [khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov](mailto:khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov). For information on the project described above, contact Dr. Leslie Garrison at 760-768-5656 or [lgarriso@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:lgarriso@mail.sdsu.edu).

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